

The Shepherd

A monthly newsletter of Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod,
Colorado Springs, CO.



Oct., 2025



Church Calendar

Sundays' Divine Service 9:00 AM
Followed by Bible Study at 10:30 AM

<i>Sun. Oct. 5</i>	<i>16th Sun. After Trinity</i>	<i>Merciful Lord</i>
<i>Sun. Oct. 12</i>	<i>17th Sun. After Trinity</i>	<i>Christian Freedom</i>
<i>Sun. Oct. 19</i>	<i>18th Sun. After Trinity</i>	<i>Great Commandment</i>
<i>Sun. Oct. 26</i>	<i>19th Sun. After Trinity</i>	<i>Reformation Day observed</i>



Thurs. Oct. 31 Happy Halloween!

Pastor and Yong Patterson will be on vacation from Sept. 29 to Oct. 28.

Dr. Steven Hein will be lead Divine Service, Oct. 5 and 12 and Chaplain Flor will lead, Oct. 19 and 26.

Oct. Bible Study, after Divine Service. will be led by Dr. Hein.

Monthly meeting of the Elders and of Mens Group will reconvene in November.



The Truth of the Reformation

Dearly Beloved,

As we approach our annual celebration of the Festival of the Reformation, I cannot overstate the importance of what we are about to celebrate; since, we are often prone to think of the Reformation as something merely historical.

It is historical, for sure; however, the theological consequences as related to the historical posting of the 95 Theses by Dr. Martin Luther on October 31, 1517, were (and are) immense!

Yes, we celebrate the years that followed, which lead to the formulation of our Lutheran Confessions, which continue to stand as a faithful exposition of Holy Scripture and the doctrine taught therein. We celebrate the courage of our Lutheran forefathers, both clergy and lay, who were willing to lay down their lives rather than turn away from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is simply no mistaking the fact that our celebration of Reformation does indeed involve our thankful remembrance of the historical Reformation era!

However, dearly beloved, it's much more than just history! Our celebration of Reformation is also a celebration of the enduring theological truth that has been maintained among us since the 16th century. It is a celebration of the fact that we still maintain that sinners are justified by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone! It is a celebration of the fact that the Gospel is still preached among us in its purity and the Sacraments are still administered according to our Lord's institution.

It is a celebration of the fact that the Person and Work of Jesus Christ remains central to all that we are and all that we do. Thus, our celebration of the Festival of the Reformation is both a celebration of a most wonderful historical event that lead to the rediscovery of the Holy Gospel among us and the present day reality that the Holy Gospel remains central among us, as well as an opportunity to pray that, by God's grace! May this continue to remain true among us into the future!

What should be decidedly absent among us as we celebrate Reformation is pride. There is no room for boasting, for that militates against the very heart of the Reformation. If we are truly Lutherans in doctrine and practice, it is because the Holy Spirit has convinced us to be so via the Word of God. Our Almighty God gets the credit...always! We are not prideful to be Lutherans; we are thankful that our Lord, in His grace, mercy, and love, has called us to adhere to our Lutheran confession of the faith:

Sola Scriptura, Sola Fide, Sola Gratia, Solus Christus!

In Jesus' Holy and Precious Name,

Pastor +++

And joyfully...

✠ ✠ ✠ Soli Deo Gloria! ✠ ✠ ✠



Commemoration of Abraham

October 9

The Lord be with you!

October 9th is the Commemoration of Abraham in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Abraham (known early in his life as Abram) was called by God to become the father of a great nation (Genesis 12). At age seventy-five and in obedience to God's command, he, his wife, Sarah, and his nephew Lot moved southwest from the town of Haran to the land of Canaan. There, God established a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15:18), promising the land of Canaan to his descendants.

When Abraham was one hundred and Sarah was ninety, they were blessed with Isaac, the long promised son to them by God. Isaac, though, was not the ultimate fulfillment of that promise. The ultimate fulfillment was Jesus Christ. It was because of Jesus that the nation of Israel continued for centuries after they abrogated the land covenant made by God to them (Exodus 19:5; Jeremiah 31:32). In Romans 9-11 Paul explains that the true Israel today are those who believe in Jesus, both those of Jewish and Gentile ancestry. To carry that out a bit further, the promise of land is to be fulfilled at the Second Coming when God establishes the new heavens and the new earth.

Canaan was always a foreshadowing of this. Abraham demonstrated supreme obedience when God commanded him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. God spared the young man's life only at the last moment and provided a ram as a substitute offering (Genesis 22:1-19). Abraham died at age 175 and was buried in the Cave of Machpelah, which he had purchased earlier as a burial site for Sarah. He is especially honored as the

first of the three great Old Testament patriarchs – and for his righteousness before God through faith (Romans 4:1-12).

In Genesis 15:6 we are told that Abraham believed the promise God made to him, and that the Lord counted it to Abraham as righteousness. This is the first explicit reference to anyone in the Bible as having faith.

Therefore, Abraham is often referred to as the “*father of all who believe.*”

Certainly, he was not the first person to believe in God and God’s promises, just the first in whom the Bible explicitly points.

Abraham’s story can be found in Genesis 11:27 – 25:11.



Prayer for the Commemoration of Abraham: Lord God, heavenly Father, You promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. You led him to the land of Canaan, and You sealed Your covenant with him by the shedding of blood. May we see in Jesus, the Seed of Abraham, the promise of the new covenant of Your Holy Church, sealed with Jesus’ blood on the cross and given to us now in the cup of the new testament, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.





Members

The Packer Family

Sam Penwell

Darrell Root

Paul Hildebrand

Marlene Schmidt

Cheri Penwell

Lindsay Suszek

Military

Major (CH) Gerson Flor (Canadian
Armed Forces)

Major Julia Bell (USSF)

Captain Rob Landers (USAF) (Barry
and Patty's Son-in-Law)

Captain Abel Wilson (USAF) (Friend
of SSLC)

1LT Frederick Heidt (USAF) (Friend
of Larry and Sue)

Master Sergeant Kyle Chase
(USMC) (Dale & Kari's Nephew)

First Sergeant Benjamin Kueter
(USA) (Deployed to South Korea)

Sergeant First Class Jordan
Etchells (USA) (Dale & Kari's Son)

SrA Trevor Smith (USAF)

Cadet Ethan Dodson (USAF)

Family Members

Gayle Rathbone (Heather's Mother)

Patty Krueger (Barry's Wife)

Kathi Chase (Kari's Sister)

Rainer Dieterle (Conny's Father)

Dennis Etchells (Dale's Brother)

Eli Belser (Shannon and Ben's
nephew)

Blake (Shannon's brother)

Raquel (Lindsay's sister)

Janice Patterson (Pastor's Mother)



The Oldest (known) Christian Hymn

Submitted by Gary Law

The climate (hot and dry) of Egypt has been an exceptional preserver of ancient papyrus manuscripts. These include the oldest copies of New Testament writings and writings of the earliest church fathers. Another remarkable papyrus, discovered in 1918 and published in 1922, contains the *Oxyrhynchus hymn*, dated to about 250 AD. The hymn has poetic metre and is written in Greek vocal/music notation. It is the only surviving Greek Christian hymn from the first four centuries AD.

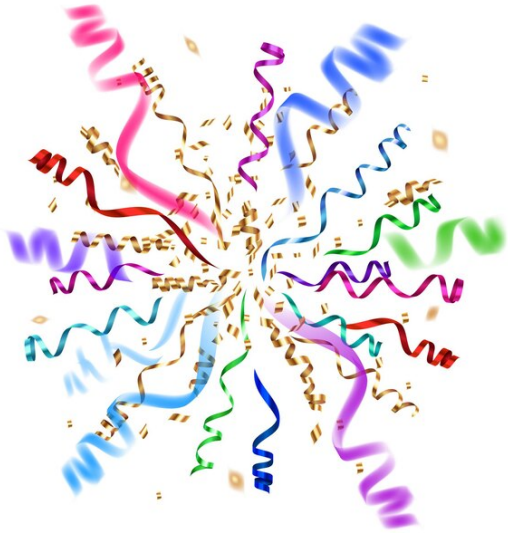
Here are the lyrics:

*Let all be silent:
The shining stars not sound forth,
All rushing rivers stilled,
As we sing our hymn
To the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit,
As all Powers cry out in answer,
"Amen. Amen."
to God, the only Giver
of all good gifts.
Amen. Amen.
Might, praise, and glory forever*

There are two special elements to notice. First is the clear statement of the Trinity (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit) a century before the Council of Nicaea (325 AD). This hymn is one of many evidences against the conspiracy theory (made famous by Dan Brown in *The Da Vinci Code*) that the Trinity was invented and imposed by the Council of Nicaea. This hymn is almost a century earlier.

The second is its clear confrontation to the Greek pagan culture of its time. In Greek mythology, Zeus was the king of the gods and called the “giver of good gifts”. But this hymn proclaimed that the real and only giver of good gifts is the Triune God of the Bible. These early Christians are singing and undermining the pagan gods even while facing possible/probable persecution





Happy Birthday

Richard Franzen	Oct. 2
Ben Suszek	Oct. 6
Carol Ross	Oct. 8
Larry Groggel	Oct. 24

Happy Anniversary

Jeff Phillips and Nina Kuberski Oct. 23

Looking ahead: November and December.



Day of Thanksgiving, Nov. 27

Divine Service at 9:00AM

followed by lunch for all at Hillsboro Complex Clubhouse

A potluck feast, games, and fellowship open to all with their families; immediate and extended.



Advent begins on Sunday , Nov. 30

Advent Evening Services begin on **Weds. Dec. 3 at 7:00PM**

Weds. Advent Suppers at 6:00pm.

Watch for sign up sheet.



In past Decembers, several SSLC families have gone to the **Flying W Christmas dinner and show**. Check out the site online at FlyingW.com. If you think you and your family would be interested, **please let me know**. Tickets go **very quickly**.

I will try to order the tickets as a group which may save us a bit. This year, we would most likely try to go on Sun. eve. Dec. 9 or 16. It is quite a merry, fun evening with lots of things to do for families.



Autumn ... the year's last, loveliest smile.

William Cullen Bryan



Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod
A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical Church

Where the Lutheran Reformation Lives!

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